Draft Plan Change 3 to the Regional Freshwater Plan for the Wellington Region

July 2006

Changes to water allocation provisions

Prepared for the purpose of consultation under the First Schedule of the Resource Management Act 1991

How you can participate?

Changes are being considered to the Regional Freshwater Plan for the Wellington region. Before we begin the statutory plan change process, we would like to consult with people and interested groups about the draft changes and the reasons for them. This process will also allow feedback on the draft changes at an early stage in the process.

This document includes some background information about the plan changes that are being considered, the reasons for them, and a copy of the draft plan changes. If you have any questions about the draft plan changes, please contact Murray McLea at our Wellington office on **04 384 5708** or Stephen Thawley at our Masterton office **on 06 3782484**. Alternatively, you can call **0800 496 734.** Postal and email addresses are given below.

We would like to hear what you think. If you don't want to comment but you would like to be involved in the steps that follow, please let us know so that you can be added to our mailing list.

You can comment on the draft plan changes by either:

Writing

Send your comments to us before **Friday 25 August 2006** at the following address:

Murray McLea
Greater Wellington Regional Council
PO Box 11 646
Wellington

Email

You can email comments to murray.mclea@gw.govt.nz before **Friday 25 August 2006.**

The operative Regional Freshwater Plan can be viewed on our website www.gw.govt.nz. Alternatively, there are copies available in the public libraries or copies can be obtained from the library at Greater Wellington Regional Council phone 0800 496 734.

Contents

1. Changes to allocation provisions

1.1 Background

The Regional Policy Statement and Regional Freshwater Plan

The Regional Policy Statement and the Regional Freshwater Plan (the Plan) are the statutory documents that guide and direct Greater Wellington's management of water quantity and allocation.

Provisions in the Regional Policy Statement aim to meet the range of uses and values for which fresh water is required, safeguard its life supporting capacity, and have the potential to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations. Policies for surface water in the Regional Policy Statement emphasise the need to safeguard life supporting capacity and avoid, remedy and mitigate any adverse effects on aquatic ecosystems. The emphasis on groundwater management is to control use and allocation of water so that it is not depleted in the long term.

The Plan sets out minimum flows and allocation limits for 14 rivers in the region. The reason for minimum flows is to ensure sustainable river management by safeguarding the life supporting capacity of aquatic ecosystems. Setting minimum flows relies on having adequate information about flows, ecology and values people place on rivers. Allocation limits specify how much water can be taken from rivers, and setting them relies on having information about how much water is used.

The Plan also sets extraction limits for groundwater, called safe yields, for all aquifers in the region with sufficient quantities of water to be used. These safe yields identify the amount of water that can be taken from an aquifer while still preserving groundwater levels, flow and quality. Safe yields are established to ensure sustainable management of groundwater by avoiding depletion of aquifers.

Measuring up 2005 and other investigations

In 2002, Greater Wellington introduced policies on the taking of water from the surface water bodies and groundwater areas addressed in Plan Change 3. The policies stated that additional water should not be taken from these water bodies. However, such policies are not statutory instruments that the Council can place much weight on when considering resource consent applications to take water.

Further monitoring and investigations have confirmed that the water resources addressed by the policies are either fully-allocated or over-allocated. These results are reported in *Measuring up 2005 - the state of the environment report for the Wellington region. Measuring up 2005* looks at how well we are managing our resources, including fresh water, against the Regional Policy Statement objectives. *Measuring up 2005* is supported by technical reports for

surface water hydrology (Watts 2005) and groundwater (Jones and Baker 2005).

Measuring up 2005 (and the supporting technical reports) identify the seven rivers included in this plan change as fully-allocated. They are under pressure from abstraction and are high priorities for setting minimum flows and allocation limits. Work has started with a view to setting minimum flows for some of these rivers, but there is insufficient information available at the present time.

Measuring up 2005 (and the supporting technical reports) also confirmed that water levels have been declining in the three groundwater zones that are included in these plan changes. Declining groundwater levels in these zones over the last 12 years indicates that the amount of groundwater allocated is not sustainable. Investigations are now underway that will enable more robust allocation limits to be established for aquifers in these groundwater zones.

Other investigations of groundwater zones carried out since the Plan became operative have updated allocation limits (called safe yields) for a number of them. Groundwater zones investigated are Parkvale, Battersea (Professional Groundwater and Environmental Services 2001a), Martinborough (Professional Groundwater and Environmental Services 2001b), Huangarua ((Professional Groundwater and Environmental Services 2001c) and Rathkeale (Professional Groundwater and Environmental Services 2004).

2. Summary of changes and the reasons for them

2.1 Surface water

A new policy identifies allocation limits for seven rivers in the Wairarapa and a new non-complying activity rule for taking water from these rivers when the allocation limits are exceeded.

The following rivers that are considered to be fully allocated are:

- Makoura Stream
- Otukura Stream
- Papawai Stream
- Parkvale Stream
- Stonestead (Dock) Creek
- Tauweru River

Although flow data is limited, assessment based on available information indicates that existing allocation is greater than 40% of the one day mean annual low flow for the Papawai, Parkvale, Tauweru, Otukura and Stonestead,. Allocation may be as high as 70 or 80% of mean annual low flow in the Papawai and Parkvale systems.

Existing allocations may be lower for the Makoura Stream. However, it receives wastewater discharges, and flows required for dilution are an

important consideration (the Papawai and Stonestead also receive wastewater discharges).

The high allocations are reinforced by anecdotal evidence that flows are unable to sustain demand for water in these streams during low flow periods, and that flow-sharing regimes are required in most irrigation seasons to ensure that water is available to all users. Water quality is degraded during times of low flow particularly in the Otukura Stream, Parkvale Stream and Tauweru River, and further abstraction is likely to impact water quality.

Additional allocation of water from these streams is unlikely to be sustainable. Investigations are required to determine appropriate minimum flows before allowing additional water to be taken. The new provisions are an interim measure while investigations are carried out to establish comprehensive management regimes that combine minimum flows and allocation limits, as applies to other rivers in the Plan with allocation limits. In the draft plan change, we have called them “capped” allocation limits to highlight that they “cap” water takes and are different to other allocation limits used with minimum flows in the Plan.

The allocation limits are based on existing water takes. Existing water takes will continue to be treated in the same way that they are now, provided applications for resource consent are made prior to the expiry of any take. They will be treated as discretionary activities and, having regard to the new policy, would be allowed when resource consent applications are made.

The suggested new rule makes the taking of water above the capped allocation limits a non-complying activity and these takes will be treated differently from existing water takes. Because new takes above the allocation limits are non-complying, they can only be granted if they are not contrary to policies in the Plan or if their adverse effects are minor. The application of a more stringent test to the granting of resource consents to take water above the capped allocation limits identified is appropriate because we know such takes are not sustainable.

2.2 Groundwater

2.2.1 A new policy identifies allocation limits for three groundwater areas in the Wairarapa and a new non-complying activity rule for taking water from aquifers within these areas that exceeds the allocation limits.

Three groundwater areas in the Wairarapa are over allocated. They are the Parkvale groundwater zone, the Kahutara groundwater area (a sub-zone of the Lower Valley groundwater zone), and the Eastern Martinborough Terraces groundwater area (a sub zone of the Martinborough Terraces groundwater zone).

Groundwater levels in wells within these groundwater areas have been declining over the last 12 years. The decline in groundwater levels that has been occurring indicates that water resources are being depleted and the

allocation of water is not sustainable. The amount of water allocated is less than the allocation limits (safe yields) currently identified in the Plan.

Therefore, we consider that groundwater in these areas is over-allocated, although the allocation limits (safe yields) currently in the Plan allow allocation of water to continue.

The new policy identifies allocation limits for the three identified areas of the amount currently allowed by resource consents. The allocation limits are based on existing water takes. The terminology "capped allocation limit" rather than "safe yield" is used in the new policy and rule to distinguish the different treatment of these ground water areas from the groundwater zones where safe yields will continue to be used for the purpose of allocating water. The new provisions are an interim measure while investigations are carried out to establish allocation limits that do not result in long term depletion of groundwater levels.

Existing water takes will continue to be treated in the same way that they are now, provided applications for resource consent are made prior to the expiry of any take. They will be discretionary activities and, having regard to the new policy, would be allowed when resource consent applications are made.

The proposed new rule makes the taking of water above the capped allocation limit a non-complying activity. New takes will be non-complying activites, they can only be granted if they are not contrary to policies in the Plan or if their adverse effects are minor. The application of a more stringent test to the granting of resource consents to take water above the capped allocation limits identified is appropriate because we know such takes are not be sustainable.

2.2.2 A change to the unit of groundwater volume for safe yields from cubic metres per day to cubic metres per year.

Sustainable management of groundwater relies on annual water use. The estimates of safe yields in the Plan are based on annual groundwater recharge. Resource consents are usually granted for an annual amount and an instantaneous amount. Daily amounts are not used.

It is appropriate that policies for groundwater management refer to annual water use as an upper limit for water takes because it determines the maximum amount that can be taken. A limit on instantaneous amounts of water that can be taken will continue to apply but these rely on other policies in the Plan such as for localised interference with other groundwater users and surface water bodies.

2.2.3 A change in Policy 6.2.3 to safe yields for groundwater zones with improved estimates.

Investigations completed since Plan became operative have provided improved safe yield estimates for the Battersea, Rathkeale and Huangarua groundwater zones in the Wairarapa. As a result of these investigations, revised safe yields

for the Battersea, Rathkeale and Huangarua groundwater zones can now be included in the Plan.

These revised safe yields are to replace those already in an existing policy of the Plan that limits the total amount of groundwater that can be taken from groundwater zones in the region. Regard must be had to these safe yields when resource consents are considered.

2.2.4 A change to the explanation to Policy 6.2.3 that explicitly states how groundwater zone boundaries should be regarded when allocating groundwater.

The movement of groundwater across groundwater zone boundaries differs across the region depending on hydro geologic conditions. For any consent application, consideration needs to be given to the interaction with adjacent groundwater zones and aquifer characteristics as a result of pump testing. A statement to this effect in the policy for groundwater allocation will help clarify that any implications of hydro geologic conditions around groundwater zone boundaries need to be considered on a case by case basis.

2.3 Consequential changes

Some consequential changes arise to other parts of the Plan as a result of the draft changes. These are:

- The default rule for taking water that applies in the absence of a specific rule needs to be amended to include reference to the new rules.
- The section of the Plan that identifies information to be provided with resource consent applications will need to include reference to the proposed new rules.

3. Draft changes to the Regional Freshwater Plan for the Wellington region

3.1 New policy and rule on allocation limits for fully-allocated streams

3.1.1 Add new policy 6.2.1A

"6.2.1A To manage the allocation of water in the rivers and streams listed in Table 6.1A, and their tributaries, so that the capped allocation limits identified are not exceeded.

Table 6.1A: Capped allocation limits for identified rivers and streams

River/Stream and tributaries	Capped Allocation limit (litres per second)
Makoura Stream	32
Otukura Stream	58
Papawai Stream	199
Parkvale Stream	249
Stonestead Creek (Dock)	207
Tauweru River	157

Explanation: The rivers identified in Policy 6.2.1A are included in Method 8.5.5, which says that more information should be obtained to establish minimum flows and approaches to water allocation such as those used in Policy 6.2.1. The addition of Policy 6.2.1A to the Plan in (date of notification) recognises that these rivers are fully allocated but minimum flows have not yet been established. Therefore, Policy 6.2.1A is an interim measure and will be reviewed when Method 8.5.5 is implemented for the rivers listed.

The term "capped allocation limit" refers to the total amount of water allocated by resource consents."

3.1.2 Add new Rule 19A

"The taking of water from the Makoura Stream, Otukura Stream, Papawai Stream, Parkvale Stream, Dock Creek, Tauweru River and their tributaries that would result in the amount of water allocated by resource consents to exceed the capped allocation limits in Table 6.7 is a **non-complying** activity.

Table 6.7: Capped allocation limits for identified streams

River/Stream and tributaries	Capped allocation limit (litres per second)
Makoura Stream	32
Otukura Stream	58
Papawai Stream	199
Parkvale Stream	249
Stonestead Creek (Dock)	207
Tauweru River	157

3.2 New policy, rule and maps for over-allocated groundwater areas

3.2.1 Add new policy 6.2.3A

"6.2.3A To manage the allocation of groundwater in the groundwater areas in Table 6.5A so that the capped allocation limits identified are not exceeded.

Table 6.5A: Capped allocation limits for identified groundwater areas

Groundwater area	Aquifer depth (metres)	Allocation limits (million cubic metres per year)
Parkvale groundwater area (the Parkvale groundwater zone)	Greater than 15	2.62
Martinborough Eastern Terraces groundwater area (a sub-zone of the Martinborough Terraces groundwater zone)	All depths	0.42
Kahutara groundwater area (a sub-zone of the Lower Valley groundwater zone)	All depths	4.58

Explanation: The addition of Policy 6.2.3A to the Plan in (date of notification) recognises that the groundwater areas (zones and sub-zones) are over-allocated. Policy 6.2.3A is an interim measure and will be reviewed once investigations of the sustainable allocation of groundwater in the Parkvale, Martinborough Terraces and Lower Valley groundwater zones are complete.

The term "capped allocation limit" refers to the total amount of water allocated by resource consents."

3.2.2 Add new rule 19B

"The taking of water from the Parkvale, Eastern Martinborough Terraces and Kahutara groundwater areas that would result in the amount of water allocated by resource consents to exceed the capped allocation limits in Table 6.8 is a **non-complying activity.**

Table 6.8: Allocation limits for identified groundwater areas

Groundwater area	Aquifer depth (metres)	Allocation limits (million cubic metres per year)
Parkvale groundwater area (the Parkvale groundwater zone)	Greater than 15	2.62
Martinborough Eastern Terraces groundwater area (a sub-zone of the Martinborough Terraces groundwater zone)	All depths	0.42
Kahutara groundwater area (a sub-zone of the Lower Valley groundwater zone)	All depths	4.58

Note: Policy 6.2.3A provides allocation limits for these groundwater zones.

Note: Figures 9.5, 9.6 and 9.7 in Appendix 9 map these groundwater areas.

3.2.3 New maps for the Parkvale, Eastern Martinborough and Kahutara groundwater areas.

Add the maps 9.5, 9.6 and 9.7 in Appendix 1 of this report to Appendix 9 of the Plan.

3.3 Changes to Policy 6.2.3

3.3.1 Change the unit of "safe yield" unit from cubic metres per day to cubic metres per year.

In column 3 of Tables 6.2, 6.3, 6.4 and 6.5:

- amend the unit of safe yield volume from "cubic metres per day" to "cubic metres per year"; and

- replace daily safe yields quantities with annual quantities (multiply the daily quantities by 365), with the exception in Table 6.5 of the Battersea, Rathkeale, Martinborough Terraces, Huangarua (aquifer depth 0-10 metres), Huangarua (aquifer depth 15-30 metres) and Parkvale groundwater zones.

These changes are shown in Appendix 1 (deletions are struck out and additions are underlined in italics).

3.3.2 Amend safe yields of the Battersea, Rathkeale, Martinborough Terraces, Huangarua and Parkvale groundwater zones.

In Table 6.5, replace the safe yield quantity for the Battersea groundwater zone of "14,500 cubic metres per day" (5292,5000 cubic metres per year) with "2.4 million cubic metres per year".

In Table 6.5, replace the safe yield quantity for the Rathkeale groundwater zone of "12,300 cubic metres per day" (4489,5000 cubic metres per year) with "3 million cubic metres per year" .

In Table 6.5, replace the safe yield quantity for the Martinborough Terraces groundwater zone of "21400 cubic metres per day" (7811,000 cubic metres per year) with "1.81 million cubic metres per year".

In Table 6.5, replace the safe yield quantity for the Huangarua groundwater zone (aquifer depth 0-10 metres) of "5500 cubic metres per day" (2007500 cubic metres per year) with "0.9 million cubic metres per year".

In Table 6.5, replace the safe yield quantity for the Huangarua groundwater zone (aquifer depth 15-30 metres) of "1370 cubic metres per day" (500050 cubic metres per year) with "1.2 million cubic metres per year".

In Table 6.5, replace the safe yield quantity for the Parkvale groundwater zone (aquifer depth 15-30 metres) of "11,200 cubic metres per day" with the words "refer to Rule 19B".

These changes are shown in Appendix 2.

3.3.3 Amend the explanation of Policy 6.2.3.

Amend the explanation of Policy 6.2.3 as shown in Appendix 1 (deletions are struck out and additions are underlined in italics).

3.4 Consequential amendments

Consequential amendments to Rule 16 and provision 6.4.2 are shown in Appendix 3 (deletions are struck out and additions are underlined in italics).

4. References

Available on Greater Wellington's website at www.gw.govt.nz.

Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington Region 1995

Regional Freshwater Plan for the Wellington Region 1999

Measuring up - the state of the environment report for the region 2005

Jones, Andrew and Baker, Tim, 2005. *Groundwater monitoring technical report*

Watts, Laura 2005. *Hydrological monitoring technical report*

Available on request

Professional Groundwater and Environmental Services, 2001a. *Groundwater Resources of the Battersea groundwater zone*

Professional Groundwater and Environmental Services, 2001b. *Groundwater Resources of the Martinborough groundwater zone*

Professional Groundwater and Environmental Services, 2001c. *Groundwater Resources of the Huangarua groundwater zone*

Professional Groundwater and Environmental Services, 2004. *Groundwater Resources of the Rathkeale groundwater zone*

Appendix 1 Maps

Figure 9.5: Parkvale groundwater area (Parkvale groundwater zone)

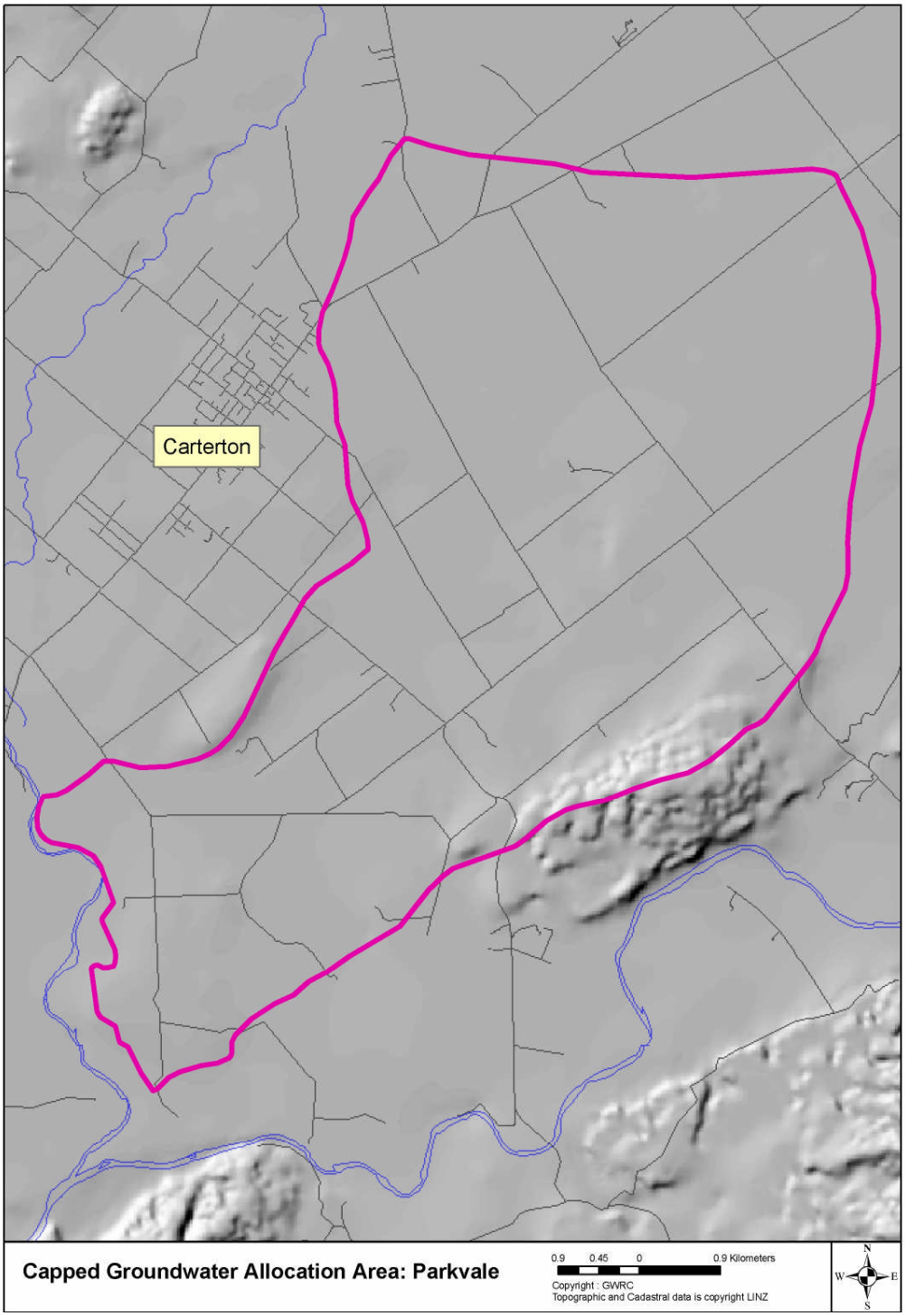


Figure 9.6: Kahutara groundwater area (within the Lower Valley groundwater zone)

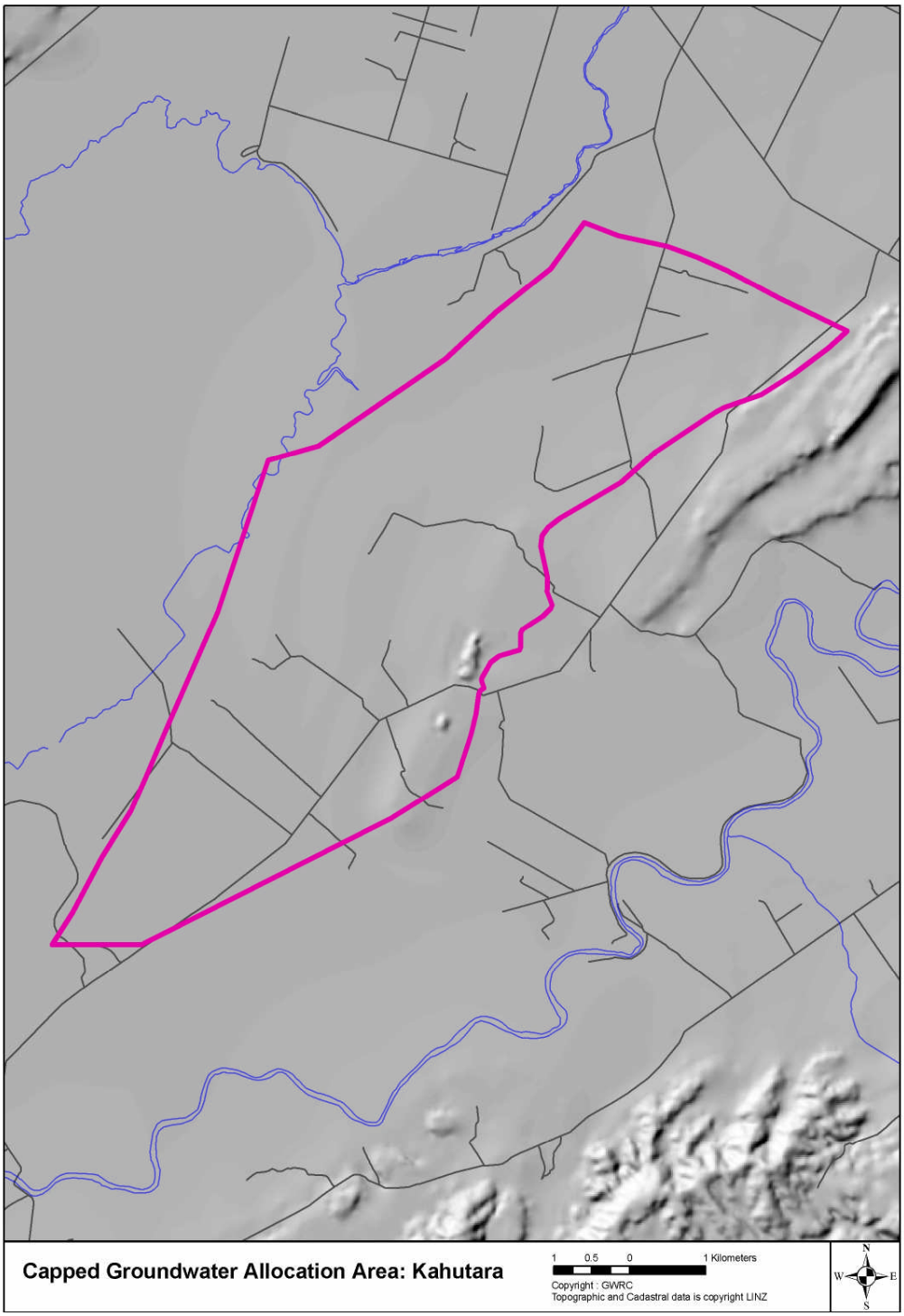
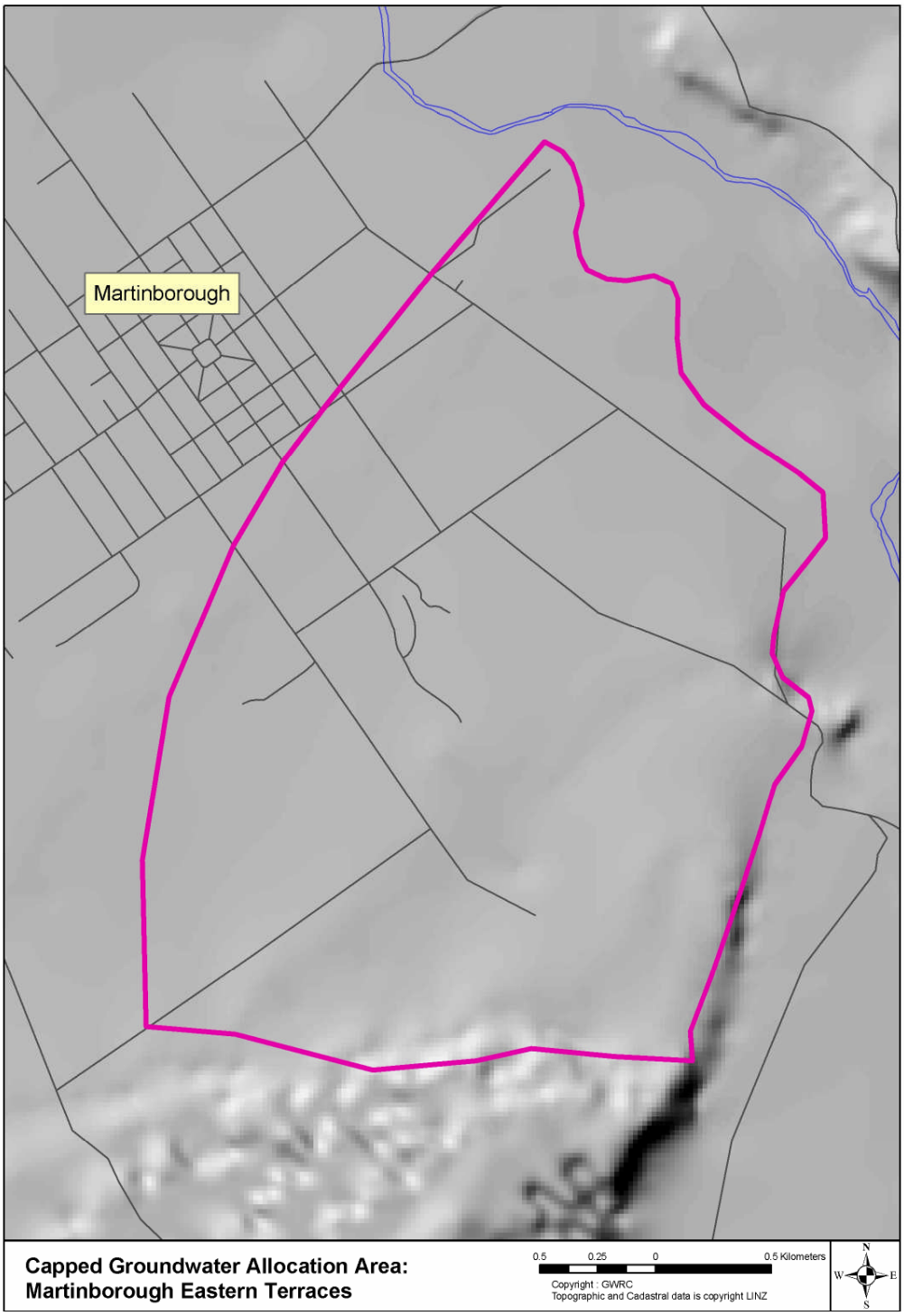


Figure 9.7: Martinborough Eastern Terraces groundwater area (within the Martinborough Terraces groundwater zone)



Appendix 2

Amendments to Policy 6.2.3

Amend policy 6.2.3 as follows

6.2.3 To manage the aquifers in each groundwater zone in Tables 6.2-6.5 (below) using the safe yield shown and to maintain discretion over the allocation of aquifers not identified in the Tables.

Table 6.2 Aquifer Allocation Limits - Kapiti Coast

Groundwater Zone	**Aquifer Depth (metres)**	**Safe Yield (~~m³/day~~ million cubic metres per year)**
Waitohu	2-10	~~8,020~~ 2.9
	20-30	~~4,390~~ 1.6
	50-60	~~5,150~~ 1.9
Otaki	4-11	~~18,250~~ 6.7
	19-35	~~12,470~~ 4.5
Coastal	5-30	~~6,630~~ 2.4
	35-56	~~4,740~~ 1.7
	100-107	~~4,740~~ 1.7
	164-172	~~2,840~~ 1.0
Hautere	10-30	~~7,380~~ 2.7
	40-70	~~5,430~~ 2.0
	90-150	~~5,430~~ 2.0
Waikanae (Sand Aquifer)	0-45	~~14,450~~ 5.3
Waikanae (Gravel Aquifer)	10-17	~~4,200~~ 1.5
	> 40	~~10,700~~ 3.9
Raumati/Paekakariki	0-6	~~5,980~~ 2.2
	> 6	~~7,090~~ 2.6

Table 6.3 Aquifer Allocation Limits - Wainuiomata

Groundwater Zone	Aquifer Depth (metres)	Safe Yield (~~m³/day~~ million cubic metres per year)
Black Creek	31-34	~~1,400~~ 0.5
	55-59	~~1,400~~ 0.5

Wainuiomata Stream	8-12	~~950~~ 0.3
Wainuiomata River	5-20	~~8,300~~ 3.0

Table 6.4 Aquifer Allocation Limits - the Hutt Valley

Groundwater Zone	Aquifer Depth (metres)	Safe Yield (~~m^3/day~~ million cubic metres per year)
Lower Hutt (Taita Alluvium/Waiwhetu) Aquifer	5-80	~~90,000~~ 33
Moera Aquifer	100-120	~~4,000~~ 1.5
Upper Hutt	0-50	~~48,500~~ 17.7
	65-90	~~25,100~~ 4.5
Mangaroa (Whitemans Valley)	0-15	~~9,400~~ 3.4
Mangaroa (Lower Mangaroa)	0-30	~~41,200~~ 15.0
Akatarawa	5-20	~~9,800~~ 3.4
Pakuratahi	0-20	~~16,300~~ 5.9

Table 6.5 Aquifer Allocation Limits - the Wairarapa

Groundwater Zone	**Aquifer Depth (metres)**	**Safe Yield (~~m^3/day~~ million cubic metres per year)**
Fernridge	0-15	4,100 1.5
Upper Plain (2 aquifers)	0-15, 35-50	46,600 17.0
Upper Opaki	0-10+	12,300 4.5
Opaki (3 aquifers)	0-17, 12-28, 48-52	6,300 2.3
Masterton	0 -35+	8,800 3.2
	15-30	6,300 2.3
West Taratahi	0-25+	14,500 5.3
East Taratahi	10-15	38,400 14.0
	30-35	4,700 1.7
Fernhill	0-25	12,900 4.7
Parkvale	10-15	12,300 4.5
	15-30, 35-50	~~11,200~~ refer to Rule 19B
Rathkeale	0-6+	~~12,300~~ 3.0

Groundwater Zone	Aquifer Depth (metres)	Safe Yield (~~m^3/day~~ million cubic metres per year)
Te Ore Ore (3 aquifers)	0-14, 0-50+, 40-50	~~29,000~~ 10.6
Middle Ruamahanga	0-12	~~20,000~~ 7.3
	15-30	~~6,000~~ 2.2
Riverside	0-15	~~10,700~~ 3.9
Tawaha	0-30	~~30,100~~ 11.0
Huangarua	0-10	~~5,500~~ 0.9
	15-30	~~1,370~~ 1.2
Matarawa	0-15+	~~27,400~~ 10.0
Mangatarere	0-15	~~20,800~~ 7.6
Hodders (2 aquifers)	0-10, 0-12+	~~11,000~~ 4.0
Carterton (2 aquifers)	0-12, 15-30	~~10,700~~ 3.9
Greytown	0-15	~~54,800~~ 20.0
Ahikouka	0-10	~~9,000~~ 3.3
Tauherenikau	0-15	~~54,800~~ 20.0
South Featherston (2 aquifers)	0-12, 60-70	~~14,500~~ 5.2
Battersea (3 aquifers)	0-20, 30-40, 90-100	~~14,500~~ 2.4
Moroa	0-10	~~1,800~~ 0.7
Woodside (2 aquifers)	0-35+, 50-60	~~43,800~~ 16.0
Lower Valley	Turanganui 1	~~3,000~~ 1.1
	Tauanui 1	~~2,200~~ 0.8
	Whangaehu 1	~~1,400~~ 0.5
	Kahutara 1	~~2,400~~ 0.9
	Aquifer 2	~~37,000~~ 13.5
	Aquifer 3	~~21,100~~ 7.7
Martinborough Terraces	10-25, 30-55	~~21,400~~ 1.8
Pironoa Terraces	15-25	~~49,600~~ 18.1

"Explanation: Groundwater zones are shown in Appendix 9.

Policy 6.2.3 provides the safe yields of aquifers that will ensure environmental effects are minimised. These safe yields will guide the Council when it is issuing consents that allocate water from these aquifers. The safe yields shown in Tables 6.2 to 6.5 are derived from the available information held by the Council on 25 January 1997 (the date of public notification of the Proposed

Plan and on (the date of public notification of Proposed Plan Change 3 to the Plan).

The ~~"daily~~ safe yields~~"~~ in the tables are based on the estimated sustainable yield of the aquifer system which is calculated from annual water balance information. The ~~"daily~~ safe yields~~"~~ are, therefore, conservative estimates based on the precautionary approach.

~~Greater daily or instantaneous take than provided by the "daily safe yields" may be allowed by a water permit if the applicant can demonstrate that the sustainable yield of the aquifer is not compromised in any way, other users of the resource are not unduly affected, and there are no significant affects on surface water. Such use of an aquifer will only be allowed where there is sufficient information available to describe the behaviour of the aquifer system to confidently predict the potential effects of the proposed abstraction~~

~~If an applicant wants to take water from an aquifer at greater than the daily allocation limit then takes based on annual allocation figures will be measured from 1 July to 30 June in the following year.~~

Satisfying the safe yield identified in the tables does not necessarily ensure that all the water sought in an application for a water permit can be taken. Other matters such as the potential effects on other users and potential adverse affects on surface water must also be taken into account.

Different parts of an aquifer often have variable yield capabilities. For this reason all bores will need to be pump tested to provide detailed "at site" information on the sustainable abstraction rate and to ensure that adverse effects on existing users or on surface waters are identified.

Groundwater zone boundaries should be regarded as a guide and, for any consent application, consideration needs to be given to the interaction of the groundwater zone at the location with adjacent groundwater zones and aquifer characteristics as a result of pump testing.

The aquifer depth shown in the tables should be regarded as a guide. Depths have not been measured at all locations in these aquifers. For any given groundwater zone, the upper and lower limits can be variable."

Appendix 3

Consequential changes to the Regional Freshwater Plan

2.1 Amend Rule 16 as follows:

"Rule 16 Taking, use, damming or diversion of water, or the transfer to another site of any water permit to take or use water

The taking, use, damming, or diversion of any fresh water, or the transfer to another site of any water permit to take or use water:

- that is not specifically provided for in any other rules in this Plan; and
- which cannot meet the requirements of those rules; and
- that, for takes of water from the Lower Hutt Groundwater Zone (Taita Alluvium/Waiwhetu aquifers), would not cause the maximum rate of takes authorised by resource consents to exceed 32.85 million cubic metres per year; and
- which is not a non-complying activity in Rules 17, 18 ~~or~~ 19, 19A or 19B

is a **Discretionary Activity**."

2.2 Amend 6.4.2 as follows:

"6.4.2 **Application for a resource consent for an activity described in Rules 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, ~~or~~ 19, 19A or 19B.**

An application for a resource consent for an activity described in Rules 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, ~~or~~ 19, 19A or 19B to take, use, dam, or divert water or to construct a bore shall be made on the prescribed form, and shall, where relevant, include:

…"